Power to State for Mining Lease

2525. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the MInister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to relax rules governing mining lease and also propose to empower State Governments to provide mining lease;

(b) if so, the reasons for relaxing mine leasing norms;

(c) the details of private sector companies permitted by the Union Government for mining and norms adopted for assigning them mining lease ;

(d) whether any State Government can enter into a collaboration with any private party for mining at diamond without getting prior permission from the Union Government; and

(e) if so, under which Act it can be done?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with Secretaries, Mines & Geology of State Governments etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee *interalia* include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/ renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

(c) to (e) All applications for grant of mineral concessions are received by the respective State Governments only. Further, the Mineral Concessions to the applicants including private sector Companies are granted by the concerned State Governments subject to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made there-under. As per Section 5 of the Act, Mineral concessions can be granted only to an Indian National or a company as defined in Sub-Section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. However, in respect of minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting Licence or Mining Lease can be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

Acquisition of Land by Konkan Railway Authorities

2526. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Authority has acquired land from farmers for Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation per hectare paid/ proposed to be paid by the Konkan Railway Authority;

(c) whether complaints of improper and inadequate payment of compensation have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Konkan Railway Corporation does not acquire land. The State Governments acquire and hands over land.

(b) The rate of compensation is varying depneding on location, state etc. however, the rate of compensation per hectare is fixed by the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Complaints are received by the respective State Governments. The Konkan Railway Corporation neither fixes the rate nor makes the payment directly. Any compensation to the land losers is made through the respective State Govts. The Konkan Railway deposits the amount of the declared award with the State Govt., who in turn arranges/to the land losers. Some of the representations are at different stages of awards finalisation by State Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs).

All out efforts are made by the KRC to get these cleared and keep close liaison with SLAOs.

Broadcasting Bill

2527. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Government has expressed its opposition to the new broadcasting bill introduced in Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Maharajganj

2528. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Maharajganj district of

Uttar Pradesh where telephone facility has been provided so far;

(b) the target fixed for the same during the year 1997-98;

(c) whether the tempo of providing telephones facility has been slow during the last year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone facility speedily?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telephone facility has been provided in 345 villages of Maharajganj District of U.P. as on 31.7.1997.

(b) The target for providing telephone facility for Maharajganj District for the 1997-98 is 315.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The action proposed to be taken to provide telephone facility speedily is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Action Proposed to be taken to provide Telephone facility speedily

It has been decided to lay underground cable in rural areas, use A,B,C,D posts in addition to Masts for antennas.

More and more exchanges are being planned to be opened in rural areas, as per the policy of the Department i.e. an exchange is planned at a place when the Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2529. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to convert narrow/metre gauge lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the names of such lines which comes under this scheme; Zone/State-wise;

(c) whether Jabalpur-Nainpur-Gondia line in Madhya Pradesh has also been included in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which the conversion on above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The preliminary work has already been started.

Statement

DETAILS OF GAUGE CONVERSION ONGOING PROJECTS

(Rs. in Crores)

Project	Year of approval	Kms.	Cost	Exp. upto 31.3.97	Outlay 97-98	Throw forward on 1.4.98	TDC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ANDHRA PRADESH							
Mudkhed-Adilabad	1984-85	162	110	5	37	69	9/98
Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Gooty-Kalluru	1992-93	458	452	359	35	58	12/98
Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	1992-93	104	72	6	15	51	10/98
Secunderabad-Dronachellam and Secunderabad-Bolarum	1992-93	331	283	178	53	52	3/98
Solapur-Gadag	1993-94	300	208	78	31	99	3/98 for Hotgi-Bijapur